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## **CITY OF ROCKVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES**

**Meeting No. 2-2013: Thursday, February 21, 2013**

### **Special Meeting with West End Citizens Association**

Rockville Presbyterian Church

215 West Montgomery Avenue

The regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Rockville Historic District Commission at City Hall was cancelled as there were no applications. The HDC had been trying to schedule a time to meet with WECA, and took this opportunity to attend the WECA meeting.

**Attending:** Craig Moloney, Chair; Rob Achtmeyer, Jessica Reynolds  
Robin D. Ziek, Jim Wasilak, Hjarman Cordero

**The WECA meeting began at 7:00 p.m., and the HDC was introduced at 7:15 pm.** Commissioner Moloney introduced the commissioners present (Rob Achtmeyer came in at 7:25 p.m.) and highlighted the role of the HDC in the City's government as a quasi-judicial commission. Commissioner Achtmeyer talked about the designation process.

Questions from attendees:

Why not approve vinyl siding? Commissioner Moloney responded about maintaining historic materials and using tax credits to assist with that. One WECA member responded in favor of not applying vinyl over historic siding.

Could a 1929 house be designated? Yes, if it meets the criteria for historic designation.

Concern about empty buildings, i.e., 100 W. Montgomery Avenue. Shrubs need pruning and the house needs an occupant!

New construction at 23 Wall Street is a concern, in terms of seeing previously vacant lots as buildable lots. Jim Wasilak talked about the subdivision review and approval process and will follow up with information about the survey. The owner of 25 Wall Street expressed a concern about removing trees on her property line to accommodate new construction on the adjacent property.

In general, WECA wants to find a way to maintain the residential character of their neighborhoods, including preservation of tree canopy and open space, limiting impacts of institutional uses and remaining walkable. Questions were asked about zoning and Conservation Districts, while some noted that the 85% approval requirement is too high a hurdle to overcome.

The commission members and staff left the meeting around 8:00 p.m.